

for the determination, along with notification of rights to an informal conference, in writing to the parties. Within 30 days of receipt of the disapproval determination, the parties may request an informal conference with the official who issued the determination. Within 30 days of receiving this request, the official must hold the informal conference with the parties. Within 10 days of the informal conference, the official must issue a decision and the basis for the decision, along with a notification of appeal rights under part 2 of this chapter, in writing to the parties to the WEEL.

(f) We will provide the approved WEEL on tribal land to the lessee and provide a copy to the tribe. We will provide the approved WEEL on individually owned Indian land to the lessee, and make copies available to the Indian landowners upon written request.

**§ 162.531 How will BIA decide whether to approve a WEEL?**

(a) We will approve a WEEL unless:

(1) The required consents have not been obtained from the parties to the WEEL;

(2) The requirements applicable to WEELs have not been met; or

(3) We find a compelling reason to withhold our approval in order to protect the best interests of the Indian landowners.

(b) We will defer, to the maximum extent possible, to the Indian landowners' determination that the WEEL is in their best interest.

(c) We may not unreasonably withhold approval of a WEEL.

**§ 162.532 When will a WEEL be effective?**

(a) A WEEL will be effective on the date on which we approve the WEEL, even if an appeal is filed under part 2 of this chapter.

(b) The WEEL may specify a date on which the obligations between the parties to a WEEL are triggered. Such date may be before or after the approval date under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) WEEL lease documents not requiring our approval are effective upon execution by the parties, or on the effective date specified in the lease document.

If the WEEL lease document does not specify an effective date, it becomes effective upon execution by the parties.

**§ 162.533 Must a WEEL lease document be recorded?**

(a) Any WEEL lease document must be recorded in our LTRO with jurisdiction over the leased land.

(1) We will record the lease document immediately following our approval.

(2) If our approval of an assignment or sublease is not required, the parties must record the assignment or sublease in the LTRO with jurisdiction over the leased land.

(b) The tribe must record lease documents for the following types of leases in the LTRO with jurisdiction over the tribal lands, even though BIA approval is not required:

(1) Leases of tribal land that a corporate entity leases to a third party under 25 U.S.C. 477; and

(2) Leases of tribal land under a special act of Congress authorizing leases without our approval.

**WEEL ADMINISTRATION**

**§ 162.534 May the parties amend, assign, sublease, or mortgage a WEEL?**

The parties may amend, assign, sublease, or mortgage a WEEL by following the procedures and requirements for amending, assigning, subleasing, or mortgaging a WSR lease.

**WEEL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

**§ 162.535 What effectiveness, compliance, and enforcement provisions apply to WEELs?**

(a) The provisions at § 162.586 apply to WEEL lease documents.

(b) The provisions at §§ 162.587 through 162.589 and 162.591 through 162.599 apply to WEELs, except that any references to § 162.590 will apply instead to § 162.536.

**§ 162.536 Under what circumstances may a WEEL be terminated?**

A WEEL must state whether, and under what conditions, the Indian landowners may terminate the WEEL.